

### **REMARKS**

Claims 1-20 are pending in this applications with claims 1-16 and 19 rejected. Independent claim 1 has been amended hereby. Applicants appreciatively acknowledge the indication of allowance of claims 17, 18 and 20. In light of the amendments set forth above and following remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-16 and 19 are also in immediate condition for allowance.

Claims 1-4, 9-16 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arslain et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,366,153) in view of Applicant Admitted Prior Art (hereinafter "AAPA") in further view of Ishii (EP 793111).

Applicants have amended independent claim 1 as shown above to recite "a first semiconductor chip configured to transmit load control data and pilot data on a single line." (Emphasis added.) Support for this amendment can be found in paragraph [0055] of the published application. None of the prior art of record discloses the explicitly recited limitation, nor would it have been obvious to combine the cited references to arrive at this limitation.

As acknowledged by the Office Action at page 3, "Arslain does not disclose the transmission of load control data and pilot data." Applicants agree. Arslain discloses a Serial Peripheral Interface 106, but does not disclose that pilot data is transmitted from Processor 102 to this Interface 106. Moreover, the AAPA clearly teaches that pilot data is transmitted via line DATA1a while load control data is transmitted via line DATA2. (See paragraphs [0025] and [0028] of the published application.) As such, the AAPA does not suggest that both types of data are transmitted on a single line.

The Office Action further contends at page 6 that Arslain discloses "a data line via which the first semiconductor chip transmits the load control data and pilot data to the second semiconductor chip in time with the transmission clock signal" for the rejection of claim 11. However, this position is in direct conflict with the conclusion at page 3 of the Office Action that

“Arslain does not disclose the transmission of load control data and pilot data.” As discussed above, Arslain does not teach or suggest the transmission of pilot data.

Moreover, it would not have been obvious to transmit pilot data in Arslain from Processor 102 to Interface 106. As noted in the present application, “pilot data” controls the transmission rate at which diagnostic data is sent from the second semiconductor chip to the first. In Arslain, there is no hint of controlling the transmission rate at which temperature data is sent from the Driver 100 to the Processor 102. Rather, the Processor 102 periodically reads the first temperature register. (See Arslain col. 3, lines 20 et seq.) Thus, there would be no reason to combine Arslain with the AAPA to arrive at the explicitly recited limitation.

Applicants further note that Ishii, which is also cited in the rejection of independent claim 1, does not cure this deficiency. Specifically, Ishii does not disclose transmitting load control data from the External Diagnostic Tester 20 to the ECU 11 (51). Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent claim 1, along with its dependent claims, should be patentable over the prior art of record for at least the reasoning discussed above.

In addition, as a result of the foregoing discussion, it is clear that the cited references cannot be read on the subject matter of dependent claim 11, which recites “wherein the load control data and the pilot data are transmitted in units of frames and are transmitted using time-division multiplexing.” As described in the specification at paragraph [0055], the pilot data can be transmitted between the load control data.

Moreover, one of ordinary skill in the art knows that time-division multiplexing is a type multiplexing in which two or more signals are transferred simultaneously as sub-channels in one communication channel. As discussed above, none of the cited references teach or suggest transmitting the load control data and pilot data on a single line. Contrary to the Office Action’s position at page 6, Arslain does not teach that the load control data and pilot data are transmitted in unit frames. As such, it is not obvious that time-division multiplexing is used. Therefore, dependent claim 11 is also patentable over the cited references.

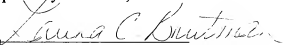
Finally, with regard to the rejections of dependent claims 5-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), Applicants respectfully assert that the additional references are cited for their disclosure of additional limitations, which, even if they were to show, do not cure the deficiencies in the prior art of record as discussed above. Therefore, Applicants maintain that all of the pending dependent claims are also in immediate condition for allowance.

In view of the above remarks and amendments, Applicants respectfully submit that each of the presently pending claims in this application is in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

In the event a fee is required or if any additional fee during the prosecution of this application is not paid, the Patent Office is authorized to charge the underpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2215.

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Respectfully submitted,

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